This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended):   A method of operating a poker game, said method comprising:

(a)   receiving an initial wager from a player;

(b)   dealing a hand of cards to a-the player, said hand of cards including a first plurality of cards from a deck of cards;

(c)   dealing a second plurality of cards to the player from the deck of cards, said second plurality of cards dealt face-down to the player;

(d)   enabling the player to end the poker game or purchase one of the second plurality of cards to add to the player's hand for an additional wager, and

(e)   repeating (d) until the player ends the poker game or until there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, wherein each time the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards, one of the cards from the second plurality of cards is added to the player's hand without regard to any of the cards already in the player's hand and such that the quantity of cards in the player's hand increases; and

(f)   when the player ends the poker game or when there are no cards remaining in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased cards and providing an award to the player if the player's hand includes a winning combination of cards.

Claim 2 (previously presented):   The method of Claim 1, which includes dealing at least one of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 3 (previously presented):   The method of Claim 2, which includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, which includes dealing a plurality of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of Claim 4, which includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, which includes dealing all of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of Claim 6, which includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, which includes enabling the player to select which of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the first plurality of cards and the second plurality of cards each include a same number of the cards.

Claim 10 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is greater than the additional wager for the previous purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to a total amount wagered in the poker game prior to said purchase.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to 2n times the initial wager, wherein n = 0 for a first one of the purchased cards and increases by one for each additional purchased card.

Claim 13 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the deck of cards includes a standard deck of 52 cards and the winning combination of cards include at least one of the results selected from the group consisting of: a pair of aces, two pairs, three-of-a-kind, a straight, a flush, a full house, four-of-a-kind, a straight flush and a royal flush.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 1, which is operated via a data network.

Claim 15 (original): The method of Claim 14, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 16 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the cards are virtual and are displayed by a display device of a gaming machine.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A memory device which stores computer instructions for implementing (a) to (f) of the method of Claim 1.

Claim 18 (currently amended):   A method of operating a poker game, said method comprising:

(a)   receiving an initial wager from a player;

(b)   dealing a hand of cards to a the player, said hand of cards including a first plurality of cards from a deck of cards;

(c)   enabling the player to end the poker game or purchase one of a second plurality of cards to add to the player's hand for an additional wager, wherein the number of second plurality of cards is predetermined, and

(d)   repeating (c) until the player ends the poker game or until there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, wherein each time the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards, one of the cards from the second plurality of cards is added to the player's hand without regard to the cards already in the player's hand and such that the quantity of cards in the player's hand increases; and

(e)   when the player ends the poker game or when there are no cards remaining in the second plurality of cards, evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased cards and providing an award to the player if the player's hand includes a winning combination of cards.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of Claim 18, which includes dealing at least one of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of Claim 19, which includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of Claim 18, which includes dealing a plurality of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of Claim 21, which includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of Claim 18, which includes dealing all of the first plurality of cards in the hand face-up to the player.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of Claim 23, which includes displaying the added one of the cards face-up to the player if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of Claim 18, which includes enabling the player to select which of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand if the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards to add to the hand.

Claim 26 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the first plurality of cards and the second plurality of cards each include a same number of the cards.

Claim 27 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is greater than the additional wager for the previous purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards.

Claim 28 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to a total amount wagered in the poker game prior to said purchase.

Claim 29 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to 2n times the initial wager, wherein n = 0 for a first one of the purchased cards and increases by one for each additional purchased card.

6

Claim 30 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the deck of cards includes a standard deck of 52 cards and the winning combination of cards include at least one of the results selected from the group consisting of: a pair of aces, two pairs, three-of-a-kind, a straight, a flush, a full house, four-of-a-kind, a straight flush and a royal flush.

Claim 31 (original): The method of Claim 18, which is operated via a data network.

Claim 32 (original): The method of Claim 31, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 33 (original): The method of Claim 18, wherein the cards are virtual and are displayed by a display device of a gaming machine.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A memory device which stores computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to (e) of the method of Claim 18.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A method of operating a poker game, said method comprising:

(a) receiving an initial wager from a player;

(b) dealing a hand of cards face-up to a the player, said hand of cards including a first plurality of cards from a standard deck of 52 cards;

(c) dealing a second plurality of cards face-down to the player from the deck of cards;

(d) enabling the player to end the poker game or purchase one of the second plurality of cards to add to the player's hand for an additional wager,

(e) repeating step (d) until the player ends the poker game or until there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, wherein each time the player purchases one of the second plurality of cards, one of the second plurality of cards is displayed to the player and added to the player's hand without regard to the cards already in the player's hand and such that the quantity of cards in the player's hand increases, and wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is greater than the additional wager for the previous purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards; and

(f) when the player ends the poker game or when there are no remaining cards in the second plurality of cards for the player to purchase, evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased second plurality of cards, and providing an award to the player if the player's hand includes a winning combination of symbolscards.

Claim 36 (original): The method of Claim 35, wherein the first plurality of cards and the second plurality of cards each include a same number of the cards.

Claim 37 (original): The method of Claim 35, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to a total amount wagered in the poker game prior to said purchase.

Claim 38 (original): The method of Claim 35, wherein the additional wager for each sequential purchase of one of the cards in the second plurality of cards is equal to 2n times the initial wager, wherein n = 0 for a first one of the purchased cards and increases by one for each additional purchased card.

Claim 39 (original): The method of Claim 35, which is operated via a data network.

Claim 40 (original): The method of Claim 39, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 41 (original): The method of Claim 35, wherein the cards are virtual and are displayed by a display device of a gaming machine.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A memory device which stores computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to (f) of the method of Claim 35.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method of operating a poker game comprising:

(a) dealing randomly a hand of cards including a plurality of cards from a standard deck of 52 cards face-up to a player;

(b) enabling the player to sequentially purchase a plurality of additional cards one at a time to add to the player's hand, wherein the purchase of each additional card increases sequentially in cost;

(c) each time the player purchases one of the additional cards, adding said purchased additional card to the player's hand, without regard to the cards already in the player's hand, such that the quantity of cards in the player's hand increases; and

(d) when the player chooses not to purchase any of the or more of the plurality of additional cards or if no more additional cards remain to purchase, evaluating the player's hand including all of the purchased additional cards for winning combinations, and providing an award to the player for the highest value winning combination in the player's hand.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the cost for each sequential purchase of the additional card is equal to a total amount wagered in the poker game prior to said purchase.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the cost for each sequential purchase of the additional card is equal to 2n times an initial wager, wherein n = 0 for a first one of the additional cards and increases by one for each additional card.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method of Claim 43, which is operated via a data network.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method of Claim 45, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the cards are virtual and are displayed by a display device of a gaming machine.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A memory device which stores computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to (d) of the method of Claim 43.

Claim 50 (new): The method of Claim 1, wherein the first plurality of cards includes five cards.

Claim 51 (new): The method of Claim 50, which includes evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased cards for a highest value winning combination of five cards.

Claim 52 (new): The method of Claim 18, wherein the first plurality of cards includes five cards.

Claim 53 (new): The method of Claim 52, which includes evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased cards for a highest value winning combination of five cards.

Claim 54 (new): The method of Claim 35, wherein the first plurality of cards includes five cards.

Claim 55 (new): The method of Claim 35, which includes evaluating the cards in the player's hand including all of the purchased cards for a highest value winning combination of five cards.

Claim 56 (new): The method of Claim 43, wherein said plurality of cards includes five cards.

Claim 57 (new): The method of Claim 43, which includes providing an award to the player for the highest value winning combination of five cards in the player's hand.